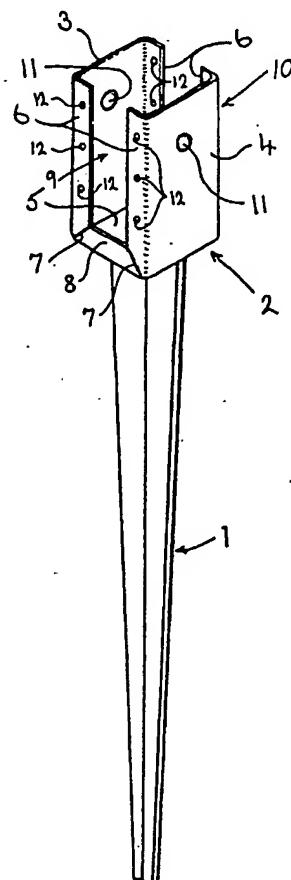


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(71) Applicant Postmate Limited (Incorporated in United Kingdom) Unit 14 New Enterprise Workshops, Mount Street, Nechells, Birmingham B7	(56) Documents cited GB A 2162561 EP A 0109284 US 4199908
(72) Inventor Benjamin Clulee	(58) Field of search E1D Selected US specifications from IPC sub-class E04H
(74) Agent and/or Address for Service Stephen A. Craske, Craske & Co, 347 Widney Road, Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands B93 9BQ	

(54) Post support with pinch bolt
and nail fixing

(57) A post support comprises a post receiving portion 2 and an anchoring portion 1 such as a ground spike. The post receiving portion comprises a base plate 5 having two opposed upstanding side walls 3, 4 containing aligned holes 11 for a pinch bolt. The upright edges of the side walls have inturned flanges 6 which define a pair of opposed upright slots 9, 10. In addition to provision for pinch bolt fixing, the flanges 6 each have a row of nail holes 12 for securing the post, e.g. if the post should work loose through shrinkage. The nail holes 12 are on a different level to the bolt holes 11.



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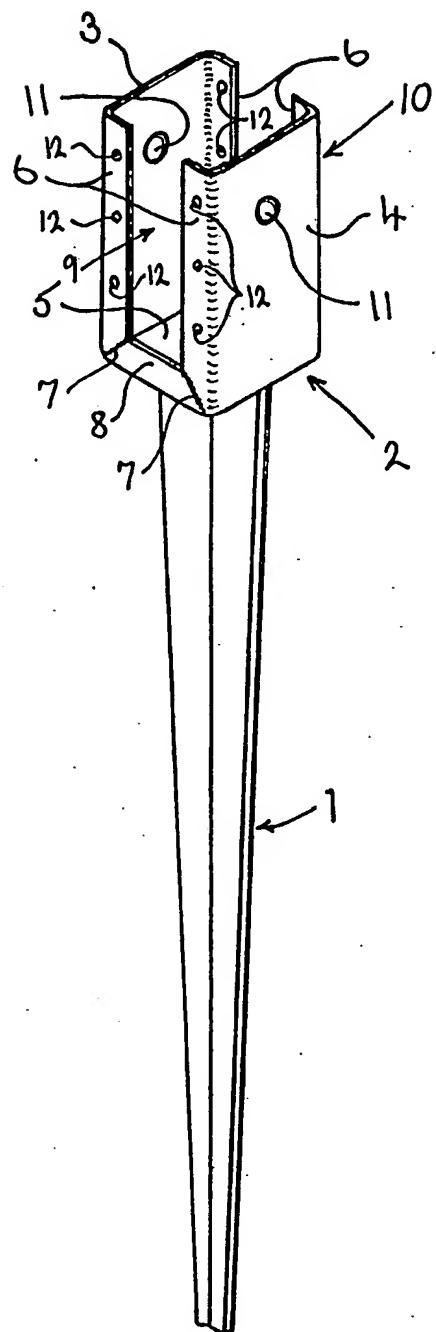
The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1982.

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SPECIFICATION**Post support**

5 This invention is concerned with post supports of the kind comprising an anchoring portion and a post receiver for holding a wooden post in an upright position.

According to the invention a post support 10 of the kind referred to above includes provision for securing the post in the post receiver using nails.

Such provision is preferably additional to and distinct from other means of securing the 15 post in the post receiver.

The invention is particularly useful when applied to post receivers of the kind having provision for securing the post using a pinch bolt of bolts. Posts tend to shrink and become 20 loose with age and it can often be difficult to re-tighten the bolts due to difficulty in access or rusting. The present invention allows the post to be easily re-secured using nails.

The post receiver is preferably of the type 25 comprising a pair of opposed side walls which are drawn together by the pinch bolt or bolts. The nail fixing is preferably perpendicular to the direction in which the walls are drawn together since this has been found to lessen the risk of the nails working loose with 30 movement of the post.

Preferably there is provision for nail fixing on opposite sides of the post, preferably offset from the mid line of the post.

35 The provision for nail fixing may comprise substantially circular holes less than 10mm in diameter, preferably less than 6mm in diameter.

The invention will now be exemplified with 40 reference to the accompanying drawing of a post support in accordance with the invention.

The post support comprises a known anchoring portion 1 of the type commonly referred to as a ground spike, upon which is 45 mounted a post receiving socket portion 2.

The socket portion 2 comprises a pair of opposed rectangular side walls 3, 4 upstanding from opposite edges of a square base plate 5. The upright edges of the side walls 50 3, 4 are provided with inturned flanges 6 which are secured by welds 7 to flanges 8 upstanding from the other two edges of base plate 5. The flanges 6, 8 thus define opposed upwardly open vertical slots 9, 10 disposed centrally between the side walls 3, 4.

The walls 3, 4 contain a pair of aligned bolt holes 11, and each flange 6 contains three substantially circular 4mm diameter nail holes 12 positioned at different levels to the bolt 55 holes 11.

The spike is driven vertically into the ground and a wooden post is inserted in the socket portion 2. The post can be secured in the socket by drilling through the bolt holes 11 60 and inserting a pinch bolt to draw the side

walls 3, 4 together. Alternatively, or in addition, the post can be secured by driving nails through the holes 12 into the post. Since the nail and bolt holes are at different levels the 70 two methods of fixing can be used without mutual interference.

The ground spike 1 could be replaced by a base plate for bolting down to a concrete surface, or a coil for setting in concrete.

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CLAIMS

1. A post support comprising an anchoring portion or anchoring in the ground and a post for receiving portion mounted on the anchoring portion for receiving and holding a timber post therein in an upright position, the support having provision for securing the post receiving portion using nails.

2. A post support according to Claim 1, in 85 which the said provision for nail fixing is additional to and distinct from other means of securing the post receiving portion.

3. A post support according to Claim 2, in 90 which the said other means comprises provision for securing the post using a pinch bolt or bolts.

4. A post support according to Claim 3, in 95 which the said provision for pinch bolt fixing is arranged to secure the post by drawing together a pair of opposed side walls of the post receiving portion.

5. A post support according to Claim 4, in 100 which the post receiving portion comprises a base plate and opposed side walls upstanding therefrom, the upright edges of each side wall being provided with inturned flanges which define between them a pair of opposed upright slots, and the opposed side walls including a pair of aligned holes for insertion of a pinch bolt therethrough.

6. A post support according to Claim 4 or 105 5, in which the direction of nail fixing is generally perpendicular to the direction in which the pinch bolt draw the said side walls together.

7. A post support according to Claim 6, in 110 which the nail fixing is arranged to be on a different level/s to the pinch bolt/s.

8. A post support according to any preceding claim, in which there is provision for nail fixing on opposite sides of the post.

9. A post support according to Claim 8, in 115 which the provision for nail fixing is offset from the mid-line of the post.

10. A post support according to Claim 9 as appended to Claim 5, in which the provision for nail fixing is made in the inturned flanges.

11. A post support according to Claim 10, 120 in which the provision for nail fixing comprises an upright row of nail holes in each flange.

12. A post support according to any preceding claim, in which the provision for nail fixing comprises substantially circular holes.

13. A post support according to any pre-

ceding claim, in which the maximum dimension of each nail hole is less than 10mm.

14. A post support according to Claim 13, in which the maximum dimension of each nail hole is less than 6mm.

15. A post support including a post receiving portion substantially as described above with reference to the drawing.

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